



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1992 FUNDING,
APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE SAFE
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996 FUNDING AND
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE CALIFORNIA
SCIENCE CENTER FOUNDATION FOR THE
PHASE II EXPANSION OF THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER
(SECOND DISTRICT — 3 VOTE MATTER)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.
2. Approve the assignment of the right to apply for funds from the California Museum of Science and Industry (CMSI), renamed the California Science Center (CSC), to the California Science Center Foundation (Foundation), in the amount of \$6,381,901.22, originally allocated to the California Museum of Science and Industry under Section (8), Subsection (d) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition) for the Phase II Expansion of the California Science Center located in Exposition Park in the City of Los Angeles.
3. Approve an alternative plan for expenditure to remove land acquisition from the specified uses specified under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (5) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition).

4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District), to award the \$6,381,901.22 to the CSC Foundation for the Phase II Expansion of the California Science Center Project and to administer the grant pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition)

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Foundation to apply for the funding previously allocated to the California Museum of Science and Industry (CMSI), renamed the California Science Center (CSC).

Seventeen million (\$17,000,000) was originally allocated to CMSI pursuant to Section (8), Subsection (d) of the 1992 Proposition. Section (8), Subsection (d) allocated \$17,000,000 for land acquisition and improvements within Exposition Park, including an amount not less than \$10 million for development and restoration of lands for park, recreational and open space use, and for walkways, tree-planting and landscape improvements, in accordance with the Exposition Park Master Plan.

Pursuant to your Board's action of March 30, 1993, a total of \$10,618,098.78 was expended on park, recreational, and open space uses specified above according to the following schedule:

- \$6,677,829.19 of the \$17,000,000 allocated was expended to purchase six parcels of private property and to relocate tenants dispossessed by the demolition of buildings on those parcels. The acquisition project was implemented in accordance with the CMSI/Exposition Park Master Plan.
- \$3,940,269.59 of the \$17,000,000 allocated was expended to develop Jesse A. Brewer, Jr. Park, a four-acre recreational area at the corner of Exposition Boulevard and Vermont Avenue in Exposition Park. The development project was implemented in accordance with the CMSI/Exposition Park Master Plan.

Upon your board's approval, the re-assignment of the remaining available funding of \$6,381,901.22 of the \$17,000,000 allocated to CMSI to the Foundation would contribute towards funding a 170,000 square-foot Phase II Expansion of the California Science Center.

The new space will expand the Museum's World of Life Exhibits and will create a new World of Ecology. When completed, the World of Ecology will be housed in a new exhibit pavilion that will become home to over 150 live animal species, plants and recreated environments from the desert to the sea. The expansion will include 24,000 square feet of exterior green space that will be the site for a rain forest in the next phase of the Museum's development. The project is consistent with the CMSI/Exposition Park Master Plan.

The total cost of the Phase II Expansion Project is \$165 million. Including the proposed \$6,381,901.22 in 1992 Proposition funds, the State of California will fund \$31 million dollars of improvements, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration will fund \$4,000,000 and the balance of \$123,618,098.78 will be funded by various corporate and private foundations as well as individual donations.

Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition)

The recommended actions will also approve an alternative plan for expenditure to remove land acquisition from the type of projects to be funded pursuant to Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (5) of the 1996 Proposition because all of the parcels privately-available for inclusion in Exposition Park have already been purchased with funding from the 1992 Proposition (see above). This action will allow the entire \$12,000,000 allocated in Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (5) to be used for development projects at Exposition Park.

Approval of the recommended alternative plan for expenditure would allow the \$12,000,000 allocated to CSC pursuant to Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (5) of the 1996 Proposition to fund the following projects:

- \$1,000,000 at the California African American Museum to add 30,000 square feet of museum space.
- \$2,000,000 at the California Science Center for alterations to the infrastructure of educational exhibits.
- \$9,000,000 for the completion of Jesse A. Brewer, Jr. Park; development of 130,000 square feet of asphalt to grass playing field; development of the Olympic Promenade, pedestrian-friendly pathways throughout the Exposition Park; the planting of more than 100 trees and landscaping improvements throughout the park; median improvements on Exposition Boulevard and new signage throughout Exposition Park.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by providing enhanced museum and recreation experiences for the patrons of the California Science Center and Exposition Park.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds for the project, in the amount of \$6,381,901.22, are budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 and 1996 Propositions set forth deadlines for agencies to encumber funds allocated to them in the two Propositions and further set forth procedures for agencies to request reallocation of those funds, as follows:

1992 Proposition

Section (18) of the 1992 established procedures by which funds allocated pursuant to paragraph 2 of subdivision (a) and paragraph 2 of subdivision (b) of Section (8) could be reallocated. The funding specified for CMSI under Section (8), Subsection (d) was excluded from this process.

1996 Proposition

Under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e), of the 1996 Proposition an alternative plan for expenditure must be submitted and approved to commit the funds allocated to specified projects between June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004. As of July 1, 2004, uncommitted Specified Project funds are subject to allocation to other projects by your Board.

If your Board does not approve CSC's requests, CSC may either expend the funds to be assigned to the Foundation for the uses originally specified, request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The State of California is the lead agency for the Phase II Expansion of the California Science Center.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments at this time to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

- c: Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
- County Counsel